

Message Text

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61

ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 SAM-01 PRS-01 /031 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:WCUTLER:JR

APPROVED BY AF- DBEASUM

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P 081624Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 029513

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG, US, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS ATTACK ON AMBASSADOR HINTON

REF: STATE 028586

1. EASUM TOOK OCCASION OF PREVIOUSLY-SCHEDULED CALL BY AMBASSADOR MBEKA FEB., 7 TO EXPRESS SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT ELIMA EDITORIAL ATTACKING AMBASSADOR HINTON. SAID SUCH PIECES AS THIS, COMING ON HEELS OF JEUNE AFRIQUE ARTICLE AND MOBUTU'S CRITICISMS AT AAI CONFERENCE, COULD NOT HELP BUT COMPLICATE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. IMPACT COULD BE PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE AT THIS TIME WHEN U.S. INVESTORS ALREADY ANXIOUS ABOUT EFFECTS OF "RADICALIZATION" ON ZAIRE'S ECONOMY AND MAJOR INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS ABOUT TO BE SIGNED.

2. EASUM TOLD MBEKA THAT HINTON IS ONE OF MOST EXPERIENCED AND HIGHLY REGARDED PROFESSIONALS IN U.S. DIPLOMATIC SERVICE AND HAS FULL CONFIDENCE OF U.S. GOVERNMENT. ALSO EXPLAINED REASONS FOR OUR SURPRISE AT MOBUTU'S REFERENCES TO DAVIS APPOINTMENT, ALSO REITERATED BY ELIMA. EASUM SAID CRITICISM OF PERSONALITIES, PARTICULARLY WHEN BASED ON INNUENDO AND FALSE "INFORMATION", COULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO
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THE KIND OF MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL DIALOGUE BOTH MOBUTU
AND BULA HAD SAID THEY WANTED IN THEIR SPEECHES
TO AAI GATHERING.

3. MBEKA SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF ELIMA EDITORIAL
AND CLAIMED PAPER SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS OFFICIAL
GOZ ORGAN. RE MOBUTU REMARKS AT AAI, HE SAID HE
CONVINCED THESE HAD BEEN MADE IN CONTEXT FRIENDLY
CRITICISM AND NOT INTENDED AS HOSTILE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 08 FEB 1975
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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Drafter: WCUTLER:JR
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